

1 47. (Am nded H rein - Twice Am nded) A method for permanent  
2 decorative enhancement of a polyethylene surface of a molded polyethylene article,  
3 which method comprises the steps of:

4 (a) incorporating a decorative enhancement composition to said  
5 polyethylene surface wherein said decorative enhancement  
6 composition consists essentially of:

7 (1) a liquid carrier that provides the decorative enhancement  
8 composition with a consistency and viscosity necessary for  
9 application by liquid methods of application; and

10 (2) a first mixture consisting essentially of:

11 (A) a colorant to impart a surface color; and

12 (B) a second mixture consisting essentially of:

13 (i) a binder to provide adhesion of the decorative  
14 enhancement composition to said polyethylene  
15 surface; and

16 (ii) a particulate thermoplastic powder that is adapted  
17 to fuse into and form a permanent bond of the  
18 decorative enhancement composition as a  
19 whole with the molded polyethylene article; and

20 (b) heating said decorative enhancement composition and said molded

21 polyethylene article to produce a molded polyethylene article

22 having a permanent decoratively enhanced surface characterized

23 by a colorant on and in said polyethylene surface of said molded

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polyethylene article.

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48. The method of Claim 47 wherein said molded polyethylene article is a

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preformed molded polyethylene article.

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49. The method of Claim 48 wherein said incorporating step is accomplished by applying said decorative enhancement composition to said preformed

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molded polyethylene article.

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50. The method of Claim 49 wherein said heating step is accomplished by

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heating said decorative enhancement composition and said preformed molded

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polyethylene article to a temperature and for a time sufficient to fuse said decorative

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enhancement composition to said preformed molded polyethylene article.

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51. The method of Claim 47 wherein said liquid carrier comprises 20 to 90

weight percent of said decorative enhancement composition.

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52. The method of Claim 47 wherein said first mixture of said colorant,

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said binder, and said particulate thermoplastic powder collectively comprise 10 to 80

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weight percent of said decorative enhancement composition.

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53. The method of Claim 52 wherein said colorant comprises 9 to 50

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weight percent of said first mixture and said binder and said particulate thermoplastic

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powder collectively comprises 50 to 91 weight percent of said first mixture.

54. The method of Claim 53 wherein said binder comprises 30 to 70

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- 2 weight percent of said second mixture and is selected from the group consisting of  
3 hydrocarbon resins, petroleum, synthetic waxes, emulsifiable waxes, rosins, rosin-  
4 esters, terpene based resins, and chlorinated polyolefin resins.

- 1 55. (Amended) The method of Claim 53 wherein said particulate  
2 thermoplastic powder comprises 70 to 30 weight percent of said second mixture and is  
3 selected from the group consisting of polyethelene, polypropylene, and ethylene-vinyl  
4 acetate co-polymers wherein said powder has a density from 0.88 to 0.97 and a particle  
5 size no greater than 140 microns diameter.